

THE NEWS IN PERSPECTIVE

By PAUL PULITZER

Attica: Birthplace of an American "Bastille Day"

It required a task force of about 1,700 state troopers, National Guardsmen, sheriff's deputies, and assorted auxiliaries, equipped like assault troops, to storm New York State's Attica Correctional Facility in order to defuse one of the bloodiest prison riots in U.S. history. Forty-one men were killed, ten out of 38 hostages and 31 inmates. About 100 inmates required medical attention, some of whom are not expected to survive at this writing. This exercise in violence marks a black day in American history. Ironically, it occurred in New York State, the breeding ground of runaway liberalism in American government, institutions, and society.

The press, radio, and TV, considering the happening at Attica, New York, a major event, gave it coverage in depth. Consequently, America had a ringside seat at the birth of a new symbol of violent revolution against the existing order of things. Cunningly planned and cleverly executed, although costlier to achieve than its French example, American Revolution II now has acquired its own battle cry as a prefabricated excuse for storming the *Establishment*. But unlike the pre-arranged storming of the Bastille from without during the Jacobin-fomented French Revolution, this assault, which deliberately provoked from within ideological indoctrination from without, was carried out by the forces of law and order and not by the revolutionaries. This unique switch in tactics could happen only in the U.S. during this, the liberal-loco, latter days of the 20th Century.

At Attica, America has witnessed the incredible spectacle of law enforcement officers attempting to negotiate a settlement with rebellious inmates of a maximum security prison through such advocates of violent revolution as the likes of William Kunstler, the peripatetic lawyer specializing in the defense of malcontents, and Bobby Seale, the leader of the Black Panthers. With such emissaries of peace, the outcome of the attempted settlement was a foregone conclusion. After four days of futility, but during which time Kunstler and Seale milked maximum publicity, all hell broke loose. Since then, if we are to believe the change in story-telling, all blame for the killing of the ten hostages seems to have been loaded on to the forces of law and order, rather than on to the incarcerated criminals responsible for the outbreak. By this stupifying switch, the enemy of this nation and all that it represents has scored a tremendous victory, while the long, thin blue-line, trying to fend off the onslaught of criminals upon law-abiding citizens, has received an irreparable set-back. But, through this carefully orchestrated performance, one important factor was brought into sharp focus for all to see and to understand. If the forces of law and order hadn't been ham-strung by fear of alienating the press, they could have stopped the riot immediately and, probably, with less bloodshed. Moreover, their hesitancy in accepting responsibility for taking positive action when required, revealed fear of reprisals from higher authorities. Under such operational conditions, which happens to be wide-spread among law enforcement agencies throughout the U.S., the required oath sworn to by all officers of the law is a tragic comedy. If this situation is not remedied and real soon, we can expect a wave of prison riots, as well as synchronized theaters in the streets in support of these outbursts by felons demanding rights and privileges they forfeited when sentenced for committing heinous crimes.

The "Battle of Attica" was provoked by black militants. Their hostages, all 38 of them earmarked for death, were white. This racial confrontation naturally created an extremely sensitive climate with deep, political overtones. It was not surprising, therefore, that nervous phone calls were exchanged between Gov. Rockefeller and President Nixon before any decision was made permitting New York State Corrections Commissioner Russell G. Oswald to blow the whistle. During this interim of soul-searching on the executive level, murder was committed in cold blood in Cell Block D.

The American prison system is obsolete and needs overhauling badly. This cannot be denied. But, this does not excuse the coddling of incorrigible criminals and abject submission to their ludicrous demands under the guise of Civil Rights by ham-strung officials fearful of reprisals from above and character assassination from below. Why the Attica explosion was triggered, is no mystery. But, how it was triggered, is typical of strategic and tactical revolutionary actions. For this reason, neither the prison officials, nor the higher authorities involved and concerned, should have been confused. The issue is cut and dried. The U.S. is faced with American Revolution II.

The hardened, black criminals, who were used by outside revolutionary forces to trigger an incident, excused their actions by announcing wide-ranging grievances. Twenty-eight of these purported grievances were agreed to by Corrections Commissioner Oswald, and these ranged from prison diet to the application of minimum wage laws in prison workshops and a reorientation of guards to enable them to better understand the problems of prisoners. But, as Oswald found out, when an inch is granted to such ilk, they will then demand a mile.

After Commissioner Oswald had agreed to grant most of the grievances first mentioned, then the convicts upped the ante by demanding total amnesty, and freedom and transportation for any prisoners wishing to seek *political asylum* in a "non-imperialistic country." When questioned about this, Bobby Seale, the erstwhile Black Panther, claimed that the rioters' price for release of the Attica hostages was "freedom from the nation's prisons of all political prisoners, including Angela Davis and the Soledad Brothers." He also admitted that he was enroute to San Francisco to deliver a message to the Black Panther Central Committee. In other words, an effort is being made to change the status of all black criminals in prisons and, by this means, to help secure the release of other more important murderers, or accessories to murder. The way the prison officials and higher authorities acted in this case, and how the press interpreted it, seems to have encouraged this gambit. But, such encouragement, can also be considered as a stab in the back of the American people and must be squelched immediately. Otherwise, hordes of criminals may be let loose to prey upon the citizenry, and as it happened in other countries subjected to the tender mercies of revolutionaries.

Let anything of any consequence happen in this country and the professional politicians are right there milching it for every possible drop of publicity they can drain out of it. So, it happened following the massacre at Attica.

New Jersey Governor William T. Cahill, for example, was one of the first to speak up. Among other things, he claimed that certain judges "send people to jail for a long term although they have no idea how tough it is on the man in jail." Governor Rockefeller, of course, is going to investigate what happened at Attica, even though what happened is a matter of record. Attorney General John N. Mitchell, whose outspoken wife could have done much better with this subject no doubt, thought that the incident was most unfortunate and then proceeded to blame it all on these pestiferous Democrats. Presidential candidate Muskie, attending the 63rd National Governors Conference at San Juan, Puerto Rico, let it be known that the killing of more than forty hostages and prisoners at Attica "is more stark proof that something is terribly wrong with America." Other assorted presidential hopefuls and politicians, including hordes of righteous pundits, also put in their two cents-worth of opinion. To be sure, it was, and still is, a lot of hot air.

The riot at Attica could have been stopped cold when it erupted. Proof of this allegation lies in the fact that, when a gang of "revolutionaries" imprisoned in Baltimore attempted to raise a sympathy happening, it was put down in a matter of minutes, and without loss of life. This, of course, has been completely overlooked, while the bleeding hearts orchestrate their heart-rending tunes. True, it would be far better to incarcerate prisoners in such a way, and in such a place, that chances for rehabilitation could be improved. However, just as long as this has yet to be done, only resolute action against prison uprisings will register with the inmates themselves. Moreover, while politicians and pundits bewail the fact that something is radically wrong in America, they can't see the forest for the trees. And, when and if they do, even then they refuse to see what their eyes have seen, let alone doing anything constructive about it.

This nation can't hope to cope with its domestic problems until and unless it can do so in tranquility. To induce tranquility, the first order of business should be the enforcement of law and order, liberal opposition notwithstanding. This basic requirement must be given top priority and above all other considerations, if we are to survive as a nation. If those who tax us without representation refuse to do this, they, as well as the American people, are not only going to see blood flowing in the streets, but some of *theirs* may be part of it.

The enemy now has his "Bastille Day" symbol. It is a challenge that cannot be ignored. For, to be sure, America will rue the day when "Bastille Day" becomes a legal holiday!

Our Book Review

"TWO IF BY SEA"

The squalid book-publishing cesspool of New York has sunk so utter low that we no longer expect to get readable books from it. Now and then, out in the provinces, somebody with a good book publishes it himself. This is doing it the hard way. It is what Bruce Warren Branick has done with his 7-Seas Press in Porth Arthur, Texas. His book **TWO IF BY SEA** is an extremely well done analysis of the ills which beset America today. Branick's book begins, "There are few Americans today who don't realize that the United States is in real trouble. Moreover, it has been in serious difficulty for at least thirty-five years, and in a rapidly declining state since the end of World War II."

Branick begins with a diagnosis of the ills of the U.S. Merchant Marine. We are not a nautically-minded nation; many readers find themselves mentally exploring a strange but interesting world in this chapter. Branick tells us that American boys find it practically impossible to get jobs on American ships, while foreigners easily get the jobs. The unions and the Coast Guard have filled the ships with immigrants of minority-group people. The ships are poorly manned, poorly disciplined, rusty, decrepit, and badly operated. The inspectors are corrupt bribe-takers. This particular instrument of national policy is sliding downhill at a great rate.

From there, Branick moves on to diagnose the Armed Forces, the State Department, education, Vietnam, poverty, the government, and the press. His smart and lucid discussions are far superior to the Right Wing and Left Wing garbage of recent years. Branick goes smartly after the real facts. Branick's take-apart of the State Department is especially good. It is a refuge for Reds, homosexuals, loafers, and freaks.. It is absolutely incompetent. It is indifferent both to American interests and American citizens abroad. The State Department is a catch-all for foreign aid boondoggling and graft. It does nothing to preserve the dignity of the United States or to secure respect and protection for United States interests in the world at large.

Two If By Sea is a nice little package of literary dynamite. It is a convenient handbook of all our national ills. It should be useful to the average citizen who has to live in this mess. You can get many different books about the ills which beset us; this book summarizes them all in one volume. It is well indexed and has a good bibliography. It gives a clear overall picture of our most important national problems.

"TWO IF BY SEA"

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Published twice monthly except July and August, once each, by

CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL ASSN.
530 Chestnut Street, Union, N. J. 07083

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